

Distinguished Guests; VEF Board of Directors, VEF staff, Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and U.S. Faculty Scholars; the National Academies staff; and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here we are at the end of a wonderful event! We have been working very diligently over the last 2 days and you should be very pleased with all that we have accomplished.

During this meeting, the VEF Fellows and Scholars Association or VEFFA has elected its new Board of Representatives. I would like to welcome the new officers and thank the past ones for their efforts and contributions. Our past VEFFA officers, please stand. Let's recognize their outstanding leadership! Now, our new VEFFA officers, who are members of the VEFFA Board-of-Executives please stand. We honor your volunteerism and leadership. Let's also recognize the new VEFFA Board-of-Representatives, which will represent the various VEF cohorts and help the Executive Board run VEFFA. As usual, we expect great activities and exceptional contributions from the VEFFA Board of Executives, the Board of Representatives, and all VEF Fellows and Scholars.

With our openness and out-reach efforts, the Annual Vietnam Education Foundation Fellows and Scholars Conference has become a friendly platform for constructive initiatives and concrete actions. During these two days, VEF guests and members of the VEF family had opportunities to engage in those initiatives and actions, which were not only related to the various scientific fields but were also avenues for social interaction.

As the excellent reputation of VEF continues to build, and for the purpose of sharing our experience with others, VEF will continue to open the Annual Conferences to other invited groups, such as Fulbright and Ford Fellows, Vietnamese-American professors, and Vietnamese students not affiliated with VEF. In this way, VEF provides a channel to broaden its social and scientific quality.

Furthermore, for six years in a row, VEF conferences have been organized within the National Academies buildings here in Washington, D.C., or in Irvine, California, and our conferences have been chaperoned by the National Academies staff. On behalf of the VEF staff, I sincerely want to thank the National Academies, Dr. Ray Gamble and his staff for all of their valuable effort and support (NA staff—please stand to be recognized).

Now, it's time for VEF to embark on other valuable initiatives. With the growth of VEF and with our interest in expanding awareness of U.S. universities in different locations around this great country, we have been planning to organize the next Annual Conferences with VEF Alliance universities. We have received many valuable candidates, and I am honored to announce that the 7th Annual Vietnam Education Foundation Fellows and Scholars Conference will be organized on January 3, 4, and 5, 2010 in cooperation with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and will take place on the RPI campus in New York. I would like to invite Ms. Kim Scalzo, Director of Academic Outreach Programs at RPI, to briefly present the RPI initiative on this matter. Congratulations, RPI!

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Thank you Kim.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have had the privilege of being together here for these two fruitful days. Tomorrow we will go back to our own work and we will continue to be a part of many unfolding important recent events: from the historical presidential election results to the most stunning global financial scandals and the fragility of the world economy. Each of us will go in our own directions. However, I am confident that this Conference has unified us and has helped us to look toward the same direction: the bright future of VEF and its mission to improve the relationship between Vietnam and the United States by helping Vietnam develop new visions and grow in science and technology through our Fellows, our Visiting Scholars, our U.S. Faculty Scholars, and our initiatives.

As we are close to the end of our Conference, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors of VEF for their continuous and valuable guidance and support of our efforts.

I would also like to thank all the staff of VEF for their crucial contributions to the good of our Fellows and Scholars and to the success of the diverse programs that we have embarked upon.

Thank you, everyone, for your attention and your contributions. May our experiences at this Conference continue to inspire and empower you to be the best and to do the most for Vietnam and its relationship with the United States.

Before I declare this as the closing of the formal sessions of the 6th Annual VEF Fellows and Scholars Conference, let me ask you to take a few minutes to complete the Conference evaluation. Please give your evaluation to the staff, who will be standing in the allies to collect them. After that we will take a group photo therefore please follow the instructions of the photographers.

I look forward to seeing you all this evening at our final event, the Gala Dinner, which will be a superb celebration organized by our Fellows for the ever-growing VEF family and our friends.

So long and safe travels tomorrow as you embark on the New Year!